

SPAG Glossary

Adjective	a describing word giving extra information about a noun (e.g. huge, squashy)
Adjectival phrase	two or more words acting as an adjective (e.g. dark brown, awfully funny)
Adverb	a word that says more about a verb or sentence, such as how or when (e.g. slowly, unfortunately)
Adverbial connective	a group of words that act like an adverb by saying where, when or how (e.g. He arrived a few days ago)
Antonym	a word with the opposite meaning (e.g. soft and hard are antonyms)
Apostrophe	' used to show shortened forms of words (e.g. can't) or to show possession (e.g. the man's hat)
Article	A, an, and the are articles. A/an are the indefinite article, the is the definite article. They are a type of determiner
Brackets	() used to show extra information to a sentence
Clause	a part of a sentence. It includes a verb
Comparative	a describing word that is used to compare two items (e.g. smaller, faster)
Complex sentence	a sentence with a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses (e.g. Although it was late ^(subordinate clause) , I wasn't tired ^(main clause))
Compound sentence	a sentence where two or more main clauses are joined with and, but or so (e.g. It was late but I wasn't tired)
Conjunction	a word used to link clauses within a sentence (e.g. when, while, because, although, if, before)
Determiner	a word used with nouns and they refer to the noun in some way (e.g. the, this, some, any, my)

Direct speech	a written version of the exact words spoken, which appear in speech marks
Idiom	an expression that is not meant to be taken literally (e.g. raining cats and dogs)
Imperative verb	a command or order, a bossy verb
Inverted commas	speech marks or quotation marks
Main clause	a part of a sentence that stands on its own and makes sense (see complex sentence)
Modal verb	a verb form such as can , shall or might which is used with other verbs to express shades of meaning (e.g. we might meet again)
Noun	a naming word. Nouns name objects, people and places (e.g. book , nurse , library)
Noun phrase	a group of words built around the noun of naming word (e.g. the new library)
Parenthesis	a word or phrase added into a sentence to explain or elaborate. It may be placed within brackets or between dashes or commas E.g. (Sam and Emma (the oldest children) are visiting next week)
Prefix	a group of letters added to the start of some words (e.g. un , dis , im)
Preposition	words to indicate time, position, direction (e.g. at , over , to , between , over)
Pronoun	a word used in place of a noun (e.g. he , it , her , theirs)
Relative clause	a subordinate clause that begins with a relative pronoun, such as who , which , whose , or that (e.g. ,which I hated)
Relative pronoun	who , which , that , whose

Reported speech	a written version of words spoken, in which you report what was said without using the actual words (e.g. Anne said that she was very tired)
Simple sentence	a sentence which consists of one clause (e.g. It was late)
Subordinate clause	a clause that would not make sense on its own but provides extra information
Suffix	a group of letters added to the end of a word (e.g. ful, ly, ing)
Superlative	a describing word that indicates the noun is the extreme example (e.g. best, tallest, quickest)
Synonym	a word with a similar meaning (e.g. cold is a synonym of chilly)
Time adverbials	tells you when the verb happens
Verb	a doing word (e.g. catch, read, jump) or a being word (e.g. was or is)
Verb phrase	two or more words acting as a verb (e.g. am waiting, have been swimming)